

## Habits of Authors.

I was presented once to a lady who immediately fixed me with an eager eye.

"I am making a study of the habits of authors," she announced. (Here a dreadful sinking of the heart assailed me.) "Kindly tell me at what hour you retire."

"Usually at half past 10," I answered wretchedly.

At that, as I had expected, her eyebrows went up. "The author of 'When All Was Dark,'" she informed me, "sits up all night. She says she cannot sleep until she has savored the dawn." However, she was kind enough to give me another chance. "What do you eat?" she asked.

"Three hearty meals a day," I answered.

"Not breakfast?" she pleaded. "Why, St. George Dreamer never takes more than three drops of brandy on a lump of sugar in the morning. Just the sight of a coffee cup will upset his work for a week."

And then she left me, sure, I do not doubt, that no real author could confess to such distressingly normal habits as mine.—Atlantic.

## Military Spies.

One of the ingenious ideas of modern war strategy is to utilize artist skill in making a drawing of a fortification without betraying its purport on the surface. The spy makes a drawing which appears to be an ordinary landscape. If caught with it he might pose with comparative safety as an artist who had been sketching for pleasure and was entirely ignorant of the existence of any fort and its surroundings.

Interpreted according to a secret code, however, the picture reveals to the spy's government a fairly complete plan of a fort. This is indicated by the character and position of details. One kind of tree represents an armored gun turret. A bush is an observation turret. Other forms of trees are gun positions, a couple of gates are entrances to the fort, a piece of fencing is a barbed wire entanglement, lines of bushes are ditches, and so on.—Kansas City Star.

## Siamese Earth Eaters.

The Laotians of Siam actually eat and enjoy earth. It has never been discovered where these peculiar people contracted this habit, though it is generally believed that it probably came about in the time of a famine, when there was nothing else to be had.

However, the habit has now got such a hold upon them that old and young, rich and poor alike, indulge freely in its consumption. It is preferred when it has been acquired from the vicinity of waters so that it carries with it a taste of fish. It is made into a pasty substance and smothered into the ground in a hot fire. It can be obtained at markets and at stores and is served at dinners and at big functions of any description. In some parts of the Kongo earth is sold in the shape of apples and oranges and is given out in various colors—yellow, brown, gray and even pink, which is looked upon as a very delectable luxury.

## Belgrade.

Belgrade, the capital of the kingdom of Serbia, has gradually, for many years past, been losing its old Turkish aspect, becoming more modern, more European. The history of the city for nearly 1,000 years has been one of continual contests. The walls have disappeared since 1802; the last and finest of the five gates was demolished in 1808, and the citadel is not up to the requirements of modern warfare. The manufactures of Belgrade consist of arms, cutlery, saddlery, silk goods, carpets, etc. The chief buildings in the city are the royal and episcopal palaces, the government houses, the cathedral, barracks, bazaars, national theater and various educational institutions. The population is about 70,000.—Westminster Gazette.

## Helping Uncle.

She came down to the drawing room to meet her special young man with a frown on her pretty face.

"John," she said, "father saw you this morning going into a pawnbroker's with a large bundle."

John flushed. Then he said in a low voice:

"Yes, that is true. I was taking the pawnbroker some of my old clothes. You see, he and his wife are frightfully hard up."

"Oh, John, forgive me!" exclaimed the young girl. "How truly noble you are!"—Exchange.

## Expert Samoans.

The women of Samoa often fish in the sea without nets, boats or hooks. They simply wade into the water and form themselves into a ring. The fishes being so plentiful, they are almost sure to have imprisoned some in the ring. These women are very quick and active, and every time they catch a fish with their hands they simply throw it alive into the basket on their back.

## Considerate.

"Have you ever done anything to make the world happier?" asked the solemn looking person with the unbarbered hair.

"Sure," answered the jolly man with the double chin. "I was once invited to sing in public and declined."

## Out of the Mouths of Babies.

"My grandpa had a perplexity fit the other day," said small Dorothy.

"Perplexity fit?" echoed Edward. "You mean a parallel stroke, don't you?"—Buffalo News.

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## "THE BIRTH OF A NATION."

Although the leaders of the opposing forces in the civil war appear but for a moment in D. W. Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation," at the Colonial Theater Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 23 and 24, with matinee Thursday, the scene in which General Grant receives the surrender of the army of the South from General Lee is one of the most striking of the famous photoplays.

As the scene unfolds Grant is discovered seated at a plain table reading the draft of the terms of surrender. Lee is seated at the left of the room. The staffs of the two generals are grouped about. The expression on Lee's face clearly indicates his thought. A forlorn leader of what is no longer even a forlorn hope he sits with bowed head most of the time, while Grant is reading the important document.

As Grant, having finished reading, and having affixed his signature rises, the contract between the two men is striking. Grant, about five feet eight inches tall, his square shoulders inclined to stoop is without his sword, and is wearing a fatigue uniform. He wears ordinary top boots with trousers inside. Boots and clothing are spattered with mud. Lee presents a different picture. He is carefully and correctly dressed, his six feet of stature and faultless form towering over his conqueror. A statue in gray. The contrast in manner is equally marked. Grant, with hand in pocket, approaches Lee with an easy swing, cigar in mouth, as usual, and offers his hand in a way that means much to the defeated Southerner. It is not preliminary to a formal meaningless handshake. It is the act of one who would be a friend and is accepted as such by the man in gray who grasps the extended hand and the great generals of the great war for a moment face

each other. Then with military salute they part and the incident of Appomattox courthouse is closed.

## THE BEST TEST.

Is the Test of Time.

Years ago this Bryan resident told of good results from using Doan's Kidney Pills. Now Mr. Kern confirms the former statement—says there has been no return of the trouble. Can Bryan people ask for more convincing testimony?

L. B. Kern, 109 Main street, Bryan, says: "I had such sharp pains in my back that I could hardly sleep and I couldn't get any comfort. My kidneys were too frequent in action. I used Doan's Kidney Pills and the sharp pain in my back soon went away and I could sleep better. I was also again able to control the action of the kidneys."

The above statement was given on May 23, 1908, and on June 21, 1915, Mr. Kern said: "I have had no occasion to use Doan's Kidney Pills since they cured me."

Price 50c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Kern has twice publicly recommended. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

Termagant Teddy grows flippant about the number of "notes" issued by the administration. And this from a man who, while he was occupant of the White House, issued, not a note, but a voluminous harangue every day hardly excepting Sundays and holidays.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mr. Bryan presumably disapproves of buying coal. According to unpreparedness doctrine, to buy a load of coal is a sure way of bringing on a blizzard.—Charleston News and Courier.

WHERE THE U. S. IS UNFITTED  
FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

In the March American Magazine is an interview with Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank of New York in which he comments on our aptitude for foreign trade:

"We have natural ability enough," he says, "but it is untrained. We have had so many opportunities at home that the young men of adventurous spirit have not needed to leave the country. If they did not like Boston or New York, they could go to Oklahoma. I believe the very paucity of opportunity in Europe has been a tremendous advantage to that continent in building up its foreign trade."

## WISE AND OTHERWISE.

Crawford—The janitor of our flat is going to give some kind of an entertainment. Crabshaw—For your sake, I hope it will be a housewarming.—Judge.

"A month ago she said she'd never forgive him. And now I hear she has married him." "Yes; carried her revenge to the bitter end."—Detroit Free Press.

"Telephone, sir." "What is it?" "Your wife wants you home at once." "What's the trouble?" "She has a tight gown, can't stoop and the drip pan under the refrigerator is running over."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"How's prohibition working in Crimson Gulch?" "Changed the architecture of the whole town," replied Three-Finger Sam. "A lot o' business houses is bein' built with nothin' but back doors to 'em."—Washington Star.

"How can she marry him, knowing that he's dissipated?" "But his fortune isn't."—Boston Transcript.

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